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Weather Forecast for Tuesday. Washington, Nov. 25.-For Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Missouri and Kansas; Fair, warmer, variable winds, becoming

PRESIDENT RIPLEY ON RATES.

The article reprinted this morning from the pen of President Ripley, of the Santa Fe, should be read by all who are interested in the rate discussion now going on in the Western states. The article was published in the summer, when the weather was too hot for hard thinking on mathematical questions, and we reproduce it now, when people are settling down to business of this kind.

Mr. Brown wrote as an amuteur: Mr. Ripley as an expert. What Mr. Ripley sets out as facts can be readily proven or disproven by any citizen who will take the trouble to refer to the books of any good library. We urge a careful perusal of the

THE SAD CASE OF MR. PILLEY.

Mr. Filley's coarse abuse of the nationa administration and of leading Republicans of this state is simply the ravings of a disappointed old man. Unable to run absolutely the Republican party of Missouri, he is of a mind to ruin as much of it as possible. At least he is so intent on gratifying his own selfish and revengeful purposes that he is indifferent as to what effect his course may have on the party.

The Republicans of Missouri will seriously question whether they can afford to follow a leader who runs amuck when things do not go just to suit him. There is a prevalent impression that the party's interests should be paramount to those of any individual. When a leader insists on putting his personal grudges and disappointments above the good of the party it is time for the party to lay him on a high, broad shelf where he will not roll off.

Mr. Filley's rabid mouthings through the Democratic press sound more like the teeth-gratings of a cheap politician who has lost his grip than the utterances of a dignified and broad minded leader such as Mr. Filley's friends have delighted to consider him. The St. Louis "sage" should straighten up and be a man and a Republican. He has been in the harness too long to be kicking out like a foolish colt at this late

HELP THE PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION

The unusually severe and rather early cold snap this city is experiencing at pres ent should aid the solicitors of the Provident Association in securing subscriptions from those who have their own homes and all the comforts that go with good living. These conditions certainly increase the urgency of such subscriptions, for there are hundreds within our gates who are illy prepared for the severity of this

weather. The Provident Association has done an admirable work since its organization. Its charity is of the practical sort. Those who are able to do something are not given anything for nothing. But while the association is so conducted that it helps to sustain itself, its scope is so large and the demands upon it are so great that only through the liberality of the people can its operations be continued.

REMEMBER THE EXTENSION ELEC. TION.

Every friend of Kansas City should remember that Thursday next is the day to cast a vote for the extension of the city limits. This election will afford every voter an opportunity to do something to push the city along. It is proposed to double the area, and to increase the population of the city by 25,000. The acquisition of Westport alone is a matter of great importance, not only to Kansas City, but to the flourishing suburb itself. The extension of the limits to Brush creek and the Blue will give the city incalculable advantages in drainage facilities. No logical argument can be brought to bear against the question of extension, and a dozen important reasons can be offered for the annexation of this territory. While there is no organized opposition to the extension proposition, there are those who are quietly working to effect its defeat. Every be liever in municipal progress should consider himself personally responsible for the success of the extension scheme, if he is authorized to cast a vote in its support.

UNION VETERANS IN THE SOUTH.

The bill introduced in the Georgia legislature to provide free licenses to all Union veterans now living in that state met with the fate that might have been expected and that the measure deserved.

It is to the credit of the members of the Georgia legislature that the bill was discussed dispassionately, that it did not call forth any denunciation of the Northern soldiers, that it did not provoke any outbursts of Southern sentiment, but that nevertheless the proposition was promptly and effectively killed.

The federal government has made am ple provisions for the defenders of the Union-more ample than the provision made by any other country for its veteran soldiers. The enormous pension roll, which is increasing instead of diminishing in spite of the rapid death rate among the soldiers, is a standing testimonial of the gratitude of the nation toward those who brought it through the great civil struggle.

It is not incumbent on any state to give special privileges to old soldiers over and above those granted by the federal authorities. It is, of course, the privilege of any Northern state to make such pro vision if it is the will of the people. But that a Southern state, which bears its share of the taxation necessary to pension the veterans of the Union army, should be asked to give special privileges to those enjoying the fruits of those pen-

sions, is a little too much to expect, and the denial of the petition does not imply any unnatural or deplorable preservation of sectional sentiment.

To be fair to the old soldiers themselves, it should be said that very few, if any, of them now living in the Southern states would desire any of these local dispensations in their behalf. Mr. Calvin, the author of the bill, evidently has been misled as to the views entertained on this question by the Union veterans in the South. He certainly made a strange miscalculation of the attitude of the Georgia legislature on the subject.

INSURANCE OF BANK DEPOSITORS No less than twenty-five bills are now pending in congress in relation to a reform of the currency, and when the committee on banking commences to formulate a plan it will have an abundance of schemes to select from. Among these bills is one by Congressman C. N. Fowler, of New Jersey, who, by the way, is an oldtime Kansan and has a wide acquaintance throughout the West.

Mr. Fowier's bill differs from all the rest in that it provides that the government shall assume responsibility for all the deposits in national banks as well as for the currency which shall be issued by these banks. He calls this feature of his bill "the insurance of depositors in national banks and through it proposes "the equalization and distribution of burdens and risks as illustrated by fire and life insurance," To provide a fund for the pay ment of depositors in a suspended bank a certain tax is to be levied upon all of the national banks in proportion to the amount of their denosits which fund will be held by the secretary of the treasury.

In support of his bill Mr. Fowler has issued a pamphlet which is now being circulated all over the country. In it he gives some statistical information that cannot fail of evoking the profoundest admira tion for the national banking system as it is at present conducted. He shows that from 1865 to 1896 the entire loss to depositors in national banks throughout the country has been a trifle less than onetwelfth of one per cent of the amounts deposited, and therefore it is obvious that a tax of one-twelfth of one per cent per annum would be sufficient to supply the government with ample revenues with which to make good all losses.

While, as set forth in these statistics the per cent of loss has been small, it must be remembered that during this thirtyyear period the deposits amounted to many billions, one-twelfth of one per cent of which would represent an enormous sum which might have been saved to the people who owned it if some such system as Mr. Fowler proposes had been in practice. There are many wise financiers who believe that the danger of loss can never be entirely eliminated until the government insures the payment of deposits. This sentiment finds a good illustration in the present agitation for postal savings banks. The man who believes in postal savings banks can raise no serious objection to the plan of insuring national bank depositors, Indeed more objections might be raised to the proposed postal system than to the proposed national banking system, for in the first case the government goes directly into the banking business, while in the second it only becomes custodian for the funds with which the national banks are

It will be interesting to discover how the national bankers look upon the Fowler scheme, as they are the ones who must pay the tax. A few weeks ago Charles S. Andrews, president of the First National bank at Brazil, Ind., sent out inquiries to of the scheme of establishing a safety fund at Washington. So far replies have been received from 348, of whom 253 are in favor of such a fund and 95 oppose it. Considered by circulation outstanding, the replies are \$7,590,700 in favor and \$8,344,000 opposed. Considered by capital invested, the replies are \$26,682,000 in favor and \$27,819,00) opposed. Considered by deposits held, me replies are \$52,000,000 in favor and \$78,000,000 opposed. Those who gave reasons for opposing the scheme were mostly extensive bankers with large lines of deposits. They feel they would be called upon to pa

insuring themselves.

too great a proportion of the tax. Among the replies received by Mr. Ar drews was one from a Kansas City national banker, who said: "It is just as important and equitable for the government to hold a special guarantee fund to secure depositors from loss in failed bank as to provide the same protection to na tional bank note holders. It would protect where protection is most needed. among the poor or small depositors. We should never forget that the poor man's all is as much as the rich man's all. I hope the matter will be pressed in congress."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mrs. Dice, of Kingston, Mo., shook Dice for another husband. This strengthens the theory that marriage is only a game of

This is the time of year when the public hopes that the president's message will be short, and realizes a little later that

Germany thinks she needs thirteen new cruisers and four new gunboats. But what Germany really needs is an emperor of undoubted sanity.

As there are many lepers in the Sand wich islands, it is gratifying to know that in Hawait's case coming into the Union means remaining far out in the Pacific,

Doubtless Mr. Filley takes great pleasur in saving bitter things about distinguished Republican leaders whom he hates, but it is an expensive sort of enjoyment. It hurts nobody but Mr. Filley.

The press correspondents who make specialty of retiring Secretary Sherman are taking a longer nap than usual. Mr. Sherman will presently begin to believe that he is to hold his job.

It is said that General Grosvenor is preparing for a vigorous assault on the civi service system. General Grosvenor is a hard hitter, but he will not make a very big dent in the civil service system.

"It is my fondest hope to see my son hanged," said the mother of Wife Murderer Merry, of Chicago. Now how could it happen that the son of this fond paren should ever grow up to be a murderer?

Kansas Populists have not yet made satisfactory explanation as to why they have emptied the state treasury. One rea son for this omission is the fact that there s no satisfactory explanation to make.

When a man has been kicked in the solar plexus by a mule he is likely to spend

some breath, as soon as he recovers a quantity, in telling those he meets what a victous and untrustworthy animal a mule is, anyway. Mr. Filley has been kicked and kicked hard, and-he has recovered his

breath. "Murder is a crime," says Dr. Roberts whether committed by an individual or by the state." If an individual locks an other up for life, or for a term of years that is a crime also. It the state locks an individual up for life or for a term of years, is that a crime? If not, why not?

By almost a unanimous vote the Central Trades and Labor Union at St. Louis has resolved against any further restriction of immigration. This is a most remarkable action. There is already more labor in the country than can find profitable employment, even when mills and factories are all running full time. To leave our gater practically wide open to the indiscriminate hordes who would swarm in from other lands means idleness, want and misery for many of the newcomers and many native workingmen. Organized labor, above all others, should be warmly in favor of most rigidly restricting immigration.

KANSAS TOPICS.

"There is a strange lady in town carrying announces the Ottawa Republic an. "As she came out of a restaurant to day the door brushed aside the folds of he dress, and there clearly discernible in the ocket of her gown, was a black handled revolver.". The Herald adds that its re orter followed her for some time, but that she didn't draw or use her weapon. The fact that she didn't take a shot or two at the reporter would seem to justify the Herald in speaking of her as a "lady."

There isn't anything more entertaining than the comedies of matrimony. Three weeks ago Jacob Gallon, of Ellis, published a notice in the local paper warning people not to trust his wife, as she had left his bed and board. Last week the warning notice disappeared from the paper and the

following took its place: My wife, Mary Isabella Gallon, has re turned to Ellis at my request, and I am proud to say that she is welcome, and Mrs Gallon can give the best of reference while in the city of Denver. She belongs to one of the wealthiest lodges in Denver, the Min nehaha council No. 1. Improved Order of Red Men. My wife is respected by all who know her in Denver. JACOB GALLON.

An Eastern religious paper devotes considerable space to the fact that Miss Con stance Ingalls has entered a Philadelphia school to fit herself for becoming a deacon ess in the Episcopal church, and concludits article with this swipe at the Hon. John James: "Miss Ingalls' action is especially commendable on account of the determina tion and force of character required to take such a stand in the face of the sneering and sarcastic attitude of her father toward

Ed Hoch thinks that in calling Leedy "the est all around governor the state has ever had," the Pop papers probably refer to the ease with which he holds a voting residence in four or five different towns. There is a man by the name of Bill in an

Oklahoma town who is known as "William, the Concurrer," because he always assents to everything. Which reminds us of the emark of Hays City's Uncle Joe Wilson that a certain traveling corn doctor closely resembled Julius Caesar because both them were roaming corncurers. Mrs. N. Connelly, of Effingham, who

evidently tired of gossip about her matri monial intentions, publishes a piece in the local paper, in which she says: get ready to get married I will tell the seys all about it, but in the meantime they had better keep out of it, as it is none of their business anyway."

"We don't know," says the Howard Cour ant, "of a nicer lot of fellows anywhere They are mild, gentle, well-mannered, and bit stuck up. And they don't bore politics either-since election. A right goo licking does some people a power o' good.'

H. Alymer Coates, the Atchison lawyer, was taken to the insane asylum at Topeka yesterday. To make room for Coates it ecame necessary for Atchison county to take back one of her patients, an incura-ble by the name of A. B. Wakefield, who will be held in a local asylum until the state can again take charge of him. Wake field has a history almost as interesting as that of Mr Coates. Though his family recircles, he spent most of his time in St Louis, where he owned one of the larges and finest gambling establishments that city has ever had. About fifteen years ago he became suddenly insane and was brought to his family in Kansas. During dual life, in the sense that few people in Atchison knew of his questionable avoca-tion. He was very attentive to his family and visited them in Atchison as often a twice a month. He has never been violent.

"Is it true that you are a candidate for lieutenant governor?" asked Topics Billy Glenn, of Greeley county, yesterday, this day; perhaps some other day. was the response of the shortgrass statusfur from his coat sleeve and twisted a hot ed necktle into place.

The big crop of wheat raised by the farmers of Ellis county does not appear to have influenced their organic disinclination to pay for a dead horse. It has become necessary to bring suit against them for the seed wheat loaned by the state.

Dr. Quayle, of Kansas City, may or may rate his lecture upon "Hamlet" in Kunsas owns is proving a big advertisement for Thomas Keene, who is about to play the tragedy over the Kansas circuit.

A year ago the Populist paper at Jetmore was shouting that the election of Mc-Kinley would run wheat down to 25 cents a bushel. Last week the editor published a notice offering to take wheat on subscrip-

tion at \$1 a bushel.

When an old soldier becomes a crank he is one of the biggest cranks on earth Thomas McIntyre has Just been discharged from the State Soldiers' home at Dodge City for refusing to pay 10 cents a month out of his pension money toward caring for the cows that furnish milk to the inmates.

"It takes a long headed man to farm in Kansas," says the Jewell Republican. "Last year white corn at a premium, the Southern demand being the cause. ear yellow corn is preferred, the feeders being partial to that color."

The friends of Ewing Herbert who reside at a distance are consoling themselves with the hope that he sent for that husky young son of Prefessor O. C. Hill before printing the following in his Hlawatha World: "We affirm, and no just man will deny it, that Mr. G. W. Harrington, the editor of the Populist newspaper of this town, is a vicious and cowardly liar and a shame upon

For many years an old gentleman by the name of Frederick Huber has lived in Westmoreland. He kept bachelor hall in a comfortable home and had no relatives of any sort about him. He had one hope that he was constantly exploiting to his friends. He wished to die suddenly with-out the necessity of a period of sickness and suffering. Last Saturday morning while plowing in his garden he fell dead without

A few years ago Miss Hattle Smith was well known in Atchison, where her par-

ents still reside, on account of her prominence in amateur entertainments. She was an elocutionist. She entered the theatrical profession three years ago under the name of Harriet Bond and is now a member of May Irwin's company in New York. The following somewhat hectic notice of the Kansas girl is taken from the New York

"There is one young woman at the Bijou by the way, who would make a sensation at the Horse show. Her name is Harriet Bond and she is a cousin of Playwright Charles Hoyt. Miss Bond is a cyclonic beauty of a type occasionally seen in the pages of life, but rarely on the stage of in the drawing room. She is tall, slight and willowy, with splendid high bred shoulders, a swan-like neck, fine brown hair and a cheek that seems to invite caresses. Her eyebrows are strongly penciled, her eyes are hypnotic and her lips would tempt a monk from his cloister. It is a fact that you might go over to the Horse show any night this week and not be able to fine in any of the boxes a personality as genuinely aristocratic and unmistakably faselnating as that possessed by this little bisque who serves in the chorus for the

Clarence Brann, son of the late postmas er at Perry, has been adjudged insane in the probate court of Jefferson county. A few months ago the young man was engaged in painting signs on the cliffs which rise above the bay at San Francisco wher a scaffolding gave way and he was dropped forty-five feet on to the rocks below. His skull was cracked, yet after it had beer trepanned at the hospital he seemed to recover and returned to his home in Kan sas. Shortly after his arrival he began to have "spells" and they grew worse un til he was adjudged insane.

There is no occasion for a laugh at the ecommendation of Paul Morton that the farmers of the Arkansas valley go into the business of raising celery. A few years ago there was a man at Hays City who made a living raising celery and the only land he used was contained in two town

MISSOURI POINTS.

Somebody of an inquisitive turn of mine wants a where-is-he-at tracer sent out after Anti-Railway Flirtation Hood, the Barry county statesman.

A one-legged Springfield man has invent ed a pneumatic foot which promises so well that he expects to be able to throw away his crutch and win wealth in a walkover.

President McKinley made no mistake in the selction of Alden Lyle, of the Free Press, as postmaster at Golden City. capable an editor is certain to prove a sat

Properly enough, under the circumstar es, the sum contributed for charity at the union services in Joplin on Thanksgiving day was more than three times as great as last year's collection.

Missouri's faithful, but overworked, chief executive was so busy in looking after an accumulation of matters of minor importance Saturday that he was able to snatch only time enough for the pardon of two convicts during the entire day. The Times, at Warsaw, is booming that

town as a health resort on the strength of the fact that a tombstone dealer there found business in his line so poor that he had to skip by the light of the moon re cently in order to escape his creditors. Charley Green, of the Brookfield Argus

goes on record with the proposition that if Representative Burroughs, of Howell cour ty, could have seen the football game in Kansas City Thanksgiving day, he would have thought his anti-football statesmanship had been all in vain.

An ingenious and enterprising Jop'in jus tice of the peace who finds the tying of matrimonial knots one of his most profit able sources of revenue has recently distanced all his rivals in the race for tha kind of business through having artistically decorated his office with boughs of mistle

Carthage schools are of such known exrellence that they attract pupils from va rious other localities. Students were en rolled there last week, representing three different towns in Illinois and the principal city in Oklahoma, and in each case the parents had decided upon Carthage as a location, because of the high reputation of

The Missouri man who happens to be possessed of a walnut grove need give himself no concern about Klondike, especially he has established communication with Colonel Elliott, the "saw-log king" of Cen tral Missouri. The latter paid a Boonville resident \$80 for three trees last week and the lumber from them will form a part of one of Colonel Elliott's frequent shipments across the Atlantic to foreign dealers with whom he has built up a very extensive trade.

Bishop Talbot, the talented Missourian. who is soon to leave his Wyoming diocese for that of Pennsylvania, is known, it is said, among his fellow clergymen and close friends, as the "prince of beggars," During the period of his labors in the far West he never returned from an Eastern trip without at least several thousand dollars for church work. "And yet he doesn't really beg it," said his brother, recently. just pours in in bank notes and checks after he has preached a sermon about the work he is doing. Why, the last time he visited the East he returned with nearly \$16,000 for his work."

The annual oratorical contest of the Mis ouri colleges will be held in Sedalia Friday night, and the seven institutions participating will be represented as follows: souri state university, J. O. Harris, "Paternalism, Its Cause and Cure"; Missouri Val-ley college, G. H. Mack, "International Arbitration": Tarkio college, R. M. Kelsey, "Richelieu vs. Gretius-Two Ideals"; Park college, John O'Malley, "Scotch-Irish Americanism"; William Jewell, J. R. Mathews "The Supremacy of Natural Law"; Central college, C. B. Duncan, "The Modern Hero" Westminster college, M. N. Ferguson "The Statecraft of Monroe." The speakers will appear on the platform in the order

Dr. J. C. Given, paster of the Methodis Episcopal church of Jefferson City, has had his faith shaken in colored human nature, the Tribune says. If he ever gets hold of another 'possum he will build a brick wall around it while it is being cooked. Dr. Given came in possession a few days ago of a fine specimen of this delicious game and having prepared proper accessories of sweet potatoes, he sent out invitations to his friends to come to the feast. The 'possum was then given to a colored man, John Moore, who was to prepare it for the table. Moore took the 'possum to Jack Weaver, colored, and family to have it killed and dressed, but intended to cook it himself. In a short time Moore went to Weaver's to get the anticipated feast. To his surprise he found the 'possum was being cooked. Moore left, promising to return soon and get the dinner when it was done. When Moore returned the 'possum was gone-sweet potatoes, gravy and all. The family had devoured it. Dr. Given, with as good grace as possible, feasted his guests roasted turkey.

Joseph Easterman, of St. Joe, knows a good riding horse when he sees one. And when he sees one, he buys the animal for a reasonable price, and sells it for all it is worth. He has a knack of finding men who want to buy good riding horses. There is said to have been one occasion when he couldn't find the man who wanted to him a good riding horse. This is the story as the News tells it about that one occasion ome time ago Esterman was the owner of a fine riding horse, which he sold to a St oseph man for a fair price. He had previously sold a horse to a Chicago man and the Chicago man had seen the animal he still had in his possession at that time,

this city. One day Esterman received a telegram from Chicago stating that Mr. Reimenbottom, of that city, would give \$200 for the other horse if he was as good as represented Easterman bought the horse ick again for more than he had received for it. He telegraphed to Relmenbottom that he still had the horse. Reimenbottom answered in a short time-in a surprising ly short time. His answer was rathe vague, and there was nothing real definite about it. A telegram was sent to him at his address in Chicago, and the information came back that he was away from home. that Reimenbottom would be at the stock yards in his city on a certain day. He had the horse fixed up in his best style, mount ed him and rode him down to the stock yards? A search of more than an failed to reveal the whereabouts of Reim enbottom, but finally a man was found who said he thought that Reimenbottom had gy. The owner of the horse rode forth to meet him. He had never met Reimenbot tom, and did not know him by sight. Every man he met he supposed to be Reimenbot-tom, and questioned him about his identity. The Chicago man was not to be found, and the owner of the horse knows now why h did not find him. It was all a wicked

Solid Facts About Rates

President Ripley, of the Santa Fe system contributed the following to the Kansas ommoner in reply to an article by Mr. W.

F. Brown: You will readily understand that I have no desire to become involved in a newscontroversy, but the inference which Mr. Brown draws from certain figures which he quotes are so absurd and un-Just that it seems a pity to permit his ar ticle to go unnoticed, as there are a great many people who necessarily do not the facts, and who might accept Mr. himself knows the facts or not I do not pretend to say, but I prefer to believe he i writing in ignorance, rather than that he is deliberately attempting to mislead the people, and to create prejudice against the railways and other interests.

The object of Mr. Brown's article is to show that the rates of transportation in this country are too high. In support o this he quotes figures in relation to the Parcel Post in England, the third class fares in India, the same fares in Russia and the rates on workingmen's trains in Pelgium. As it is on the Belgium figures that he lays the most stress, we will take this subject first.

Mr. Brown says that special working men's trains are run on the railways of Belgium, on which workingmen can ride to and from their work six times a week at rates which are very low. His exac figures are as follows:

miles from their homes, 21 cents a week

6 miles from their homes, 27 cents a week 12 miles from their homes, 37 cents a weel 18 miles from their homes, 41 cents a week from their homes, 45 cents a 36 miles from their homes, 53 cents a weel 42 miles from their homes, 57 cents a week Now, Belgium is a country less than one eventh of the size of the state of Kansas It has a population of over 6,000,000 of peo ple. For half a century it has been the most densely populated country in Europe Twenty years ago it had a population of 460 people to the square mile. It has a pop ulation to-day of about 530 to the squa mile. To get the same conditions in Kan sas as exist in Belgium you would have

to put a village of over 100 people, in addi tion to the existing population of Kansas on every quarter section in the state, from the furthest north to the furthest south and from the Missouri line to the boundar, of Colorado. Instead of scattering the pe ple over each quarter section, you could make, if you wished, a city of nearly 20,000

people in each township. Belgium had the first railroad line on the Continent of Europe; it has the best high ways probably in the world to-day; it is one dense hive of industry from one corner to the other, and, finally, it has a population of about 2,000 people to every mile of railway. Kansas has a population of about 150 to every mile of railway. With more than thirteen times as many people to travel on each mile of road, is it surprising that the Belgium railways can charge lower rates? The figures which Mr. Brown quotes, morer, are only the figures on special work ingmen's trains, which run twice a day, taking the men to work in the morning and bringing them back at night. They run short distances through crowded districts and are sure of something more than a full load to every car each trip each day in the year. If the people of Kansas can furnish travel let us say one-half as heavy as the people of Belgium furnish, I will guarantee on behalf of the Santa Fe roadthink I can speak for all the railro Kansas-to make one-half the Belgium rate.

One more point in regard to Belgium which Mr. Brown overlooks is that the average weekly wages of the workingmen of Belgium are about \$5. If the railways of Kansas could hire their labor and buy all their supplies on the Belgian scale of prices, again I say there will be no trouble in making Belgian rates.

In regard to India. Mr. Brown says that the third class fares range from 4-12 to 5-12 of a cent a mile. I think he is making a mistake and figuring the Indian anna at cents, but this is immaterial, for it is a fact that the Indian rallways do carry passengers in their third class cars of carriages at a rate of about a quarter of a cent a mile. What Mr. Brown fails to say, however, is that these third class carriages are built and are reserved solely for the use of the colored native population. White people do not, and are not allowed to, and would not if they could, travel in them. They more closely resemble our cattle cars than any other kind of vehicle running in the United States Speaking of them, a recent writer says "In these cars the poor wretches are packed literally like sardines, but they are willing to endure any discomforts for the pleasure of riding on the steam cars." British India has a population of prob-ably 240,000,000 people. Over the whole of its extent of about a million square

mile, or sixty people to every quarter secof 150 people to the mile railway, as in Kansas, there are in India. roughly, 20,000 to the mile. It would be easier to understand the condition of affairs in India if the red Indians in this country, instead of dying off, had increased nd multiplied amazingly so that the coun try had to-day an Indian population o say 300,000,000. Suppose this population to be as poverty stricken as the American Indian is to-day, and, suppose further, that they are compelled by their religion to be ost constantly on the move in pilgrim ages in huge masses, so that the railways would pick them up in their cattle car trains in full trainloads at every mile of the track and carry them in solid blocks to their destination. This is what the rallways of India are doing to-day. Yet curiously enough, Mr. Brown is evidently unaware that there is a serious agitation going on against the native Indian passenger rates as being too high, for all that they are only a quarter of a cent per mile. The truth is, of course, that prices are relative. Common labor in India receives in wages about 4½ cents a day. For a day's wage, therefore, a native can only travel, even at the lowest rate, about twenty miles. As the distances are great which he has to cover in his pilgrimages he has to starve himself the whole year round to be able to make the trip by rall, and it is a literal fact that they do themselves for this purpese and die of starvation by thousands even in years when there is no famine, while inability to save even the rate required makes them mov ways, because they cannot travel by rail. It is probable that it will be necessary to reduce the rate in India below the present

In regard to Russia. Mr. Brown says that under the new tariff a person can travel for distances up to 106 miles at a rate of about % of a cent a mile. He doe

which was afterwards sold to a resident of gium the low rate quoted is only for the workingmen on their special trains, and as in India the low rate is made for moving the masses of the natives, while in both countries the first class rate is higher than the highest rate in America, so it is in Russia. The population of Russia amounts to about 5,000 persons to every mile of rallway. The great bulk of these are of the class which until recently were serfs. The average weekly wages in Russia in all rades and classes of labor amount to about \$4. Even at % of a cent, therefore, the Russian workingman can only travel about (20) miles for his whole week's wages, and he travels under conditions of discomfort the equipment and accommodations which are furnished, which no white man living in Kansas would consent to submit to for traveling half a block As was said of Belgium, if the railways of Kansas can have the Russian population, and if the people of Kansas will submit to the Rusble whatever in making Russian rates in The other point which Mr. Brown raises

is in regard to the English Parcels Post. It is quite true that the postoffice department of the British government covers a wider field in some respects than the post-office department in this country, and the Parcels Post, since it was instituted in England, has been a great success and a great convenience, especially in the ab sence of any express companies over there. The government handles the parcels just as it does the letter mail, and it makes up any deficiency out of the revenue from The same thing could be done in this country. So far as the cost of the service goes, to the people it makes very little difference whether they pay it directly in charges on the individual article or whether it is paid subsequently in taxes to make up a government deficiency. the parties to criticise for its absence in this country are not the railroads, but the administration in Washington. It is a matter which Mr. Brown had better refer to the postmaster general.

Now, in all the foregoing, I have simply extended and elucidated the reference which Mr. Brown makes. In his article he states certain facts without stating of the surrounding conditions. In all the countries which Mr. Brown quotes, in spitof all the advantages and density of population and of the far greater cost which has been put into the railways to make them operate economically, the first class are higher than the rates in the United States, and in every country wher accommodation similar to those furnished to travelers on the railways of Kansas obtained at all (and in most coun tries they cannot be obtained at all) they cost the traveler much more than they do

Mr. Brown intended his article to be criticism and reflection on the railways of this country. Yet, does it not occur to him that there could not be a more splendid compliment paid to the American railways than the fact that when he searched for comparative rates in other countries he could only find such rates by going among the teeming working classes of Belgium, the masses of colored natives of India and the crowds of emancipated serfs of Russia? He mentions rates for carrying parcels in England and third class passengers in other countries, but he makes no reference at all to freight rates or passenger rates in general. It is a pity that he did not do this, because some recent comparisons have een made. The railways of Great Britain are supposed to be the model railways of the world. Englishmen with their commercial instinct think that they have their raflway service and everymanly possible. Yet, comparing the lowest freight rate in England with the corres-ponding rates in this country the difference is such that if the American railways could get the English rate they would receive \$55,000,000 a year more in freight revenue

than they receive to-day. I regret that this communication has extended to such a length, but while it is easy to state in brief compass one or two isolated facts, as Mr. Brown has done, it is less easy to state, as I have tried to do, even the most essential of the surrounding conditions which qualify those facts Thanking you for the courtesy of your space, I am, yours very truly,

E. P. RIPLEY, President.

From the Chicago Times-Herald. Last week in the world of trade and roductive activity was a record-breaker. Although the statistics of trade move ments and bank clearings for three months past have given incontrovertible proof of a steady and positive improvement in business conditions, no week can compare with the week just closed in the number of evidences of permanent advance in all

The most important features of the

week's record were the heavy exports of wheat and the renewed advance in price The week closed with December hovering very close to the dollar mark. Since the extent of the foreign crop shortage became accurately known the exports have been larger than in the corresponding weeks of any previous year. On the Chicago board inquiries for wheat on foreign account come from all sorts of unusual quarters. On Friday there were inquiries for wheat from Venice, aggregate exports of wheat from coasts of the United States and from Canada last week are 5,465,153 bushels, against 3.753.000 husbels last year and 2.450.000 bush els in 1895. The corn exports were 2,869, 000 bushels, against 2,920,000 bushels last year and 1,829,000 bushels in 1895. The cotton exports were also very heavy

and the exports of manufacturing prod ucts, especially machinery, surpass records for the season. The iron industry shows no increase in production or con-sumption in pig, while in bars, agricultural and railway manufacturing causes heavy demand in Chicago. The condition of woolen manufacturing is equally encouraging, nearly all the woolen mills being heavily crowded to fill past orders The most significant feature of the trade situation is the heavy falling off in import and the consequent increase of the balance of trade in our favor. At the port of New York the imports are running behind last year's at the rate of nearly \$2,000,000 for this month, so that another excess of exports over imports amounting to about \$60,000,000 for the month is probable, which would make an excess of about \$225,000,00 for the four months.

With a continuous increase in the excess of exports over imports and weekly bank clearings that average about 15 per cent higher than those of last year return of good times is a certainty that is no longer questioned by those who have an intelligent understanding of causes and effects in the world of industry and

Likely to Be Sensational.

From the Chicago Post. He was interested in his newspaper; she was interested in her fashion magazine "The new transparent blouse," she read aloud, "has a very fascinating effect when"-His newspaper no longer held his atten

"What's that?" he exclaimed. "Trans parent blouse! Fascinating effect: Well, I should think so. What is that you're reading-a theatrical press notice?"

From Judge.

Mrs. Brown-"So Mrs. Jones is nearly dead from insomnia? What is the cause of it? Mrs. Smith (indignantly)-"Why, her hus-

band is the cause of it. He talks in his sleep, you know, and she has to lie awake all night trying to find out what he is say ing, poor thing!"

The Pessimistic Bachelor. From the Indianapolis Journal.

"Marriage," said the Sentimental Girl, "is

"But the trouble is," said the Pessimistic Buchelor, "that the mun takes most of the

BEFORE THE SNOW

A soft gray sky, marked here and there With tangled tracery of bare boughs, A little far-off fading house, A blurred blank mass of hills that wea A thickening vale of lifeless air, Which no wind comes to rouse.

Insipid silence everywhere: The waveless waters hardly flow, In silence laboring flies the crow, Without a shadow, o'er the bare Deserted meadows that prepare

To sleep beneath the snov -Robert Kelly Weeks. DREAMS

Some tiny elves, one evening, grew mis-And broke into the storeroom where the Sandman keeps his dreams,

And gathered up whole armsful of dreams

all bright and sweet.

And started forth to peddle them a-down the village street Oh, you would never, never guess how queerly these dreams sold; Why, nearly all the youngest folk bought

dreams of being old; And one wee chap in curis and kilts, a gentle little thing. Invested in a dream about an awful pirate

king; A maid, who thought her pretty name oldfashioned and absurd, Bought dreams of names the longest and

the queerest ever heard; And, strange to say, a lad who owned all sorts of costly toys, ight dreams of selling papers with the

Bought dreams of selli raggedest of boys. And then a dream of summer and a barefoot boy at play Was bought up very quickly by a gentle-

man quite gray; And one old lady—smiling through the grief she tried to bide-

Bought bright and tender visions of a little girl who died. ragged little beggar girl, with weary,

wistful gaze. Soon chose a Cinderella dream, with jewels all ablaze-Well, it wasn't many minutes from the time

Before the dreams were all sold out and

the elves had taken flight. -S. Walter Norris. LIFE.

they came in sight

The Power that lifts the leaf above And sends the root below. Sustains the heart in brother-love And makes it heavenward grow -John B. Tabb.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

"I believe there are almost a score of women who own and conduct drug stores Chicago," said a man from that city the other day "Some years ago it was difficult for women to obtain recognition when they sought to qualify themselves struggling they won their way in this as are large numbers of female students in the leading pharmaceutical colleges. pharmacists women have undoubtedly proved a success, and there is no business where the superior neatness, patience, tact and temperate habits of the sex count to better advantage. Besides the dozen and more Chicago women who own drug stores, there are large numbers of female clerks who stand on an equal plane with their male co-laborers, and to whom the local physicians unhesitatingly intrust the most difficult prescriptions. One of the lady owners has her dispensary located on the top floor of a big office building down town, and yet, despite its remoteness from the street, her place is always full of patrons. Many of the women graduates are now in charge of the drug departments of hospital asylums, and other pub-

The story of the English dude who walked into a Spokane, Wash., gambling-room the other night, and, with \$300, succeeded in winning \$5,000, is causing a great deal of talk. in which the Western papers are treating that such luck was unprecedented. "There have been 10,000 cases of late years," Times-Herald writer says, "when bigger faro banks. In Santa Fe. N. M., during the exposition in 1884, I saw yellow chi representing \$1,000 each piled up as high as a cat's back on a single card. Jemison, of Meridian, Miss., was playing in Conant & Hart's one night, and when he cashed in, after a sitting of two and a half hours, the firm handed him \$45,000. Jemison lost it the following day in Deming. I witnessed the play of a Chinaman in the same place one evening, and he won twenty-seven straight bets, and then without pursuing his luck any further, pocketed \$23,000. The limit in those days was the ceiling. It would be a hard mat-ter to find a gambling-room now that would allow one to bet on any single card

exceeding \$12.50," A striking example of Charles Dickens' chivalrous regard for an absent friend is recalled by Dean Farrar. Mr. Sims Reeves had been announced to sing at a small and, as happened not infrequently, Mr. Sims Reeves had something the matter with his throat and was unable to attend Dickens announced this, and the announcement was received with a general laugh of incredulity. This made Dickens very angry, and he rose manfully to the defense of the delinquent. "My friend, Mr. Sims Recycs," he said quietly, "regrets his ina-bility to fulfill his engagement, owing," he added with caustic severity, "to an unfortunately amusing and highly facetious

Whenever day breaks dark and lowering the suicide clerk in the coroner's office in New York prepares for a busy day. The four coroner's physicians attached to the office also know by experience that the gloomier the day the bigger will be their lists. The present year has been a recordbreaker for suicides. In one day there were nine cases. It is very unusual to have a day pass by without at least one or two

Rousseau's tomb at Ermenonville was recently taken to pieces in order to have the carving touched up. It was found that the space within the tomb was too small ever to have contained a coffin. Rousseau's remains were conveyed to the Pantheon dur-ing the French revolution, but it was believed had been later replaced in the tomb, The question now is: "Where is Rous-seau's coffin?"

Mills hotel No. 1 had a Thanksgiving dinner at 15 cents, and about 1,800 men were served. Hereafter the restaurant is to be open all night, and women as well as men will be admitted. Women may not have rooms in the house, but the restaurant is to be extended by an invitation of patronege of all persons, whether lodgers or not. New York's Waldorf of Bleecker street has

come to stay. One of the genuinely curious sights in New York just now is the exhibition of fancy canaries at 2250 Third avenue. Twenty-one varieties are represented among the 200 on view. Among the sweet singers are birds valued at from \$25 to \$50, and one is labeled \$150.

The church made a good record for itself during the yellow fever scare at New Or-leans. Not a clergyman deserted his post, though congregations dwindled and in some cases disappeared altogether. Such showing is as creditable to the clerical as it is disconcerting to their critics.

A New Yorker who lives in a small bedroom, commenting on the smallness of his quarters the other day, said: "I always sleep with my head toward the window, so that if I die in the night the undertaker won't have the trouble of turning me round."

A "don't worry" club has been formed by one congregation in New York to consider the relation of the church to mode scientific methods of religious thinking.